

# DO YOU KNOW?

*An Alphabet of Clerical Fun*

By

RONALD SINCLAIR

*Late Canon of Canterbury*

WITH A FOREWORD BY  
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY



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## FOREWORD

BY HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP OF  
CANTERBURY

**R**ONALD SINCLAIR brought great joy and great inspiration into the lives of all who knew him. It was my good fortune to bring him from the Canterbury Diocese to be a Canon of Chester Cathedral. There before the war and during it he exercised a wonderful ministry. It was an added delight when we discovered his powers of caricature. Each fresh work of his skilful art, with its gentle and whimsical 'leg-pulling,' was hailed eagerly by its victims as by all others.

From Chester he went to Guildford and did great work there as Provost. It was again my good fortune to bring him back to the Canterbury Diocese, but only a short while before he died. He had to bear many physical disabilities as the years went on. He bore them all with undaunted courage. To the end he brought to everyone the same joy and inspiration. This little volume reveals again the gaiety of his spirit and the skill of his pen. He was a great lover of all his brethren and a great preacher of the Love of Christ, the power of which he knew so well.

GEOFFREY CANTUAR:

LAMBETH PALACE

2nd November, 1953

#### PUBLISHER'S NOTE

When Canon Sinclair died in May 1953 the present book was very nearly finished, but four letters of the alphabet were found to be missing. With the consent of his family these gaps were filled, and it should be noted that C, M, Q, and X are by another hand.

#### DO YOU KNOW?



‘ B stands for Bishop . . . ’



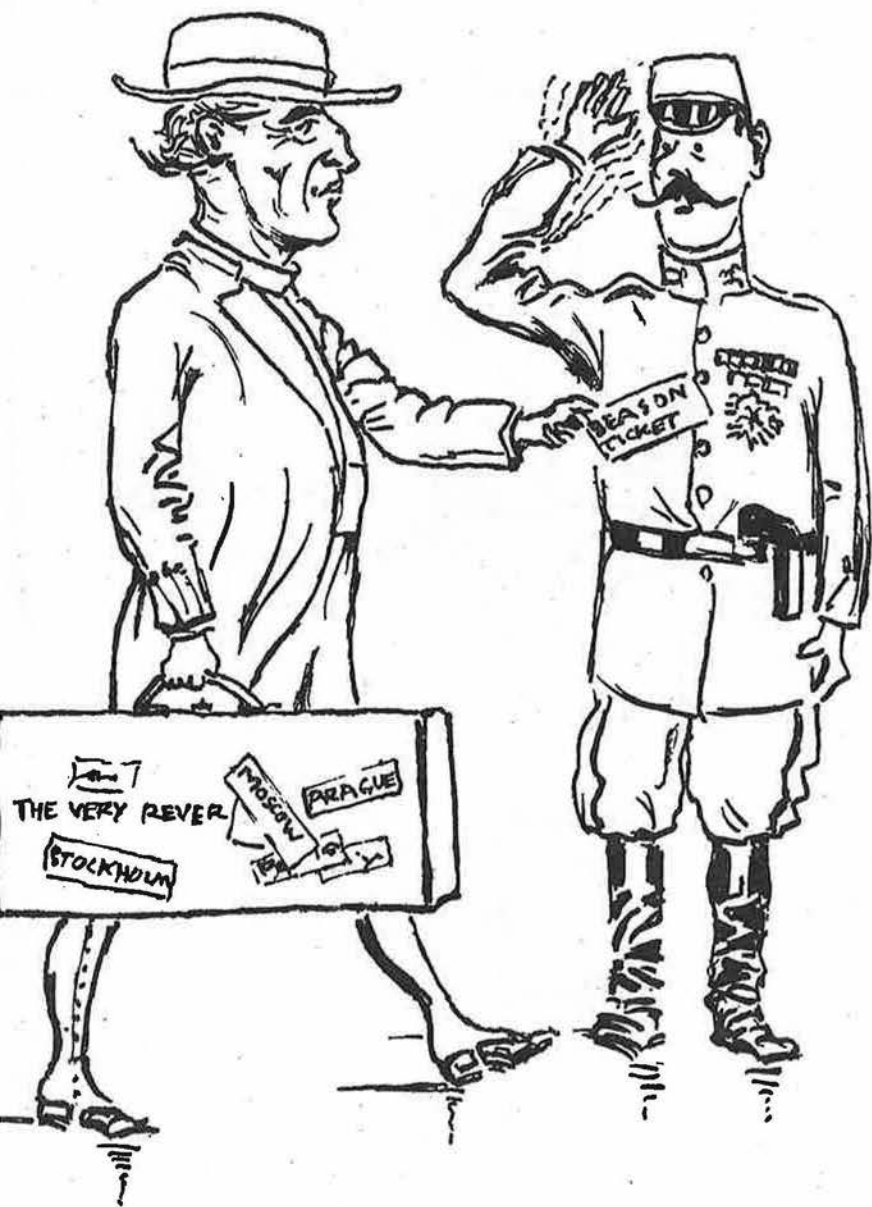
**A**'s for Archdeacon—  
A diocesan force;  
His clothes were intended  
For riding a horse.

**B** stands for Bishop—  
This one is benign;  
'Don't worry, old fellow,  
The decision is mine'.



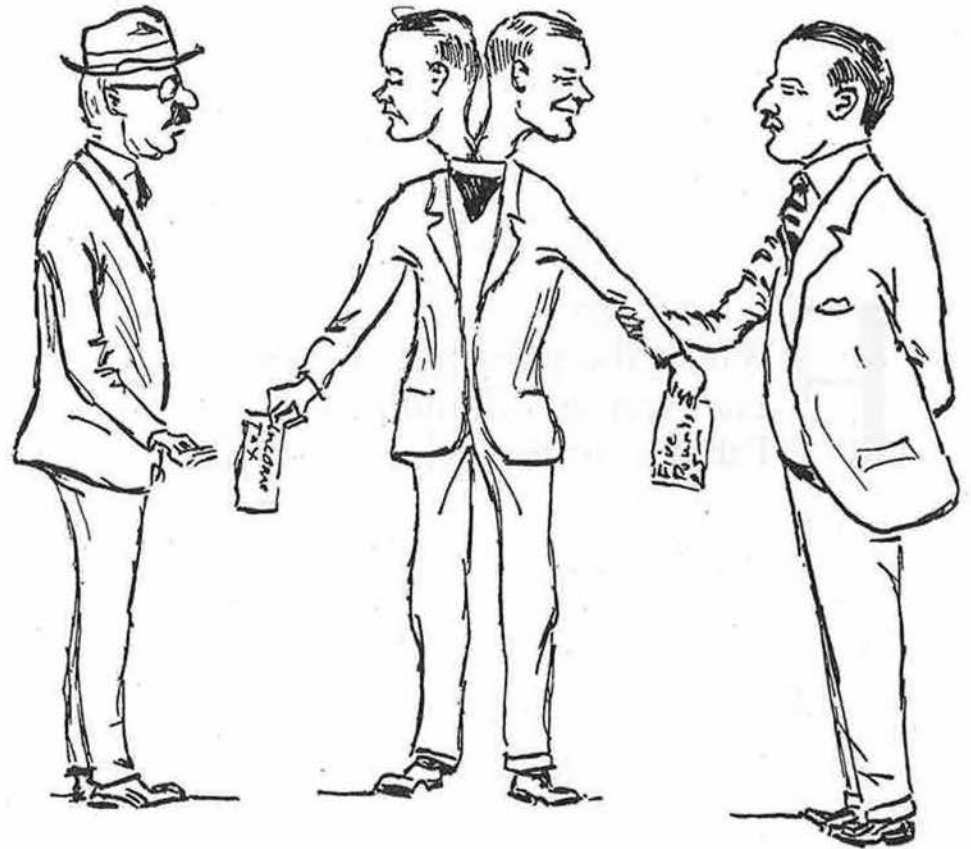
C can be Christmas  
With all that it brings:  
So *very* exhausting  
But full of good things.





**D** is for Deans—  
 Whilst some stay at home  
 To run their Cathedrals,  
 There are others who roam!

**E** is for Easter;  
Exchequer as well;  
Easter offerings are taxed,  
Which is rather a sell!



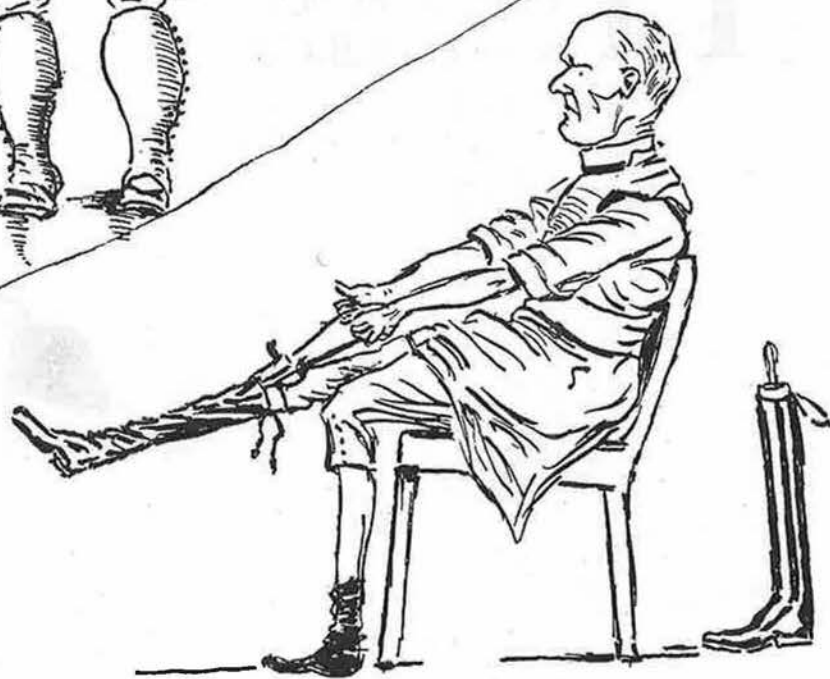
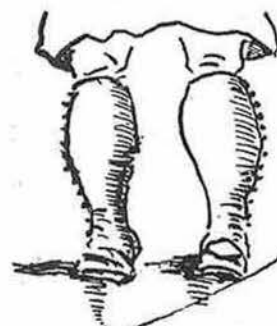
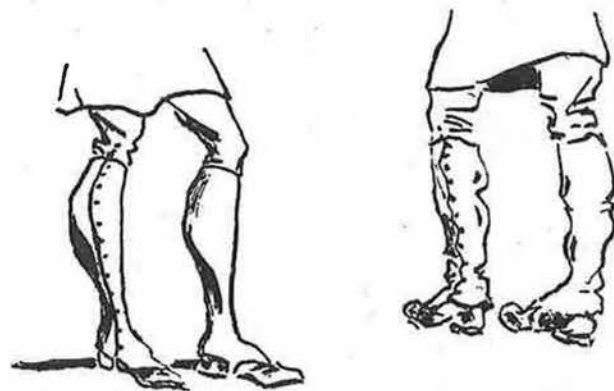
" THAT WAS HALF MY EASTER OFFERING  
THAT WAS - "



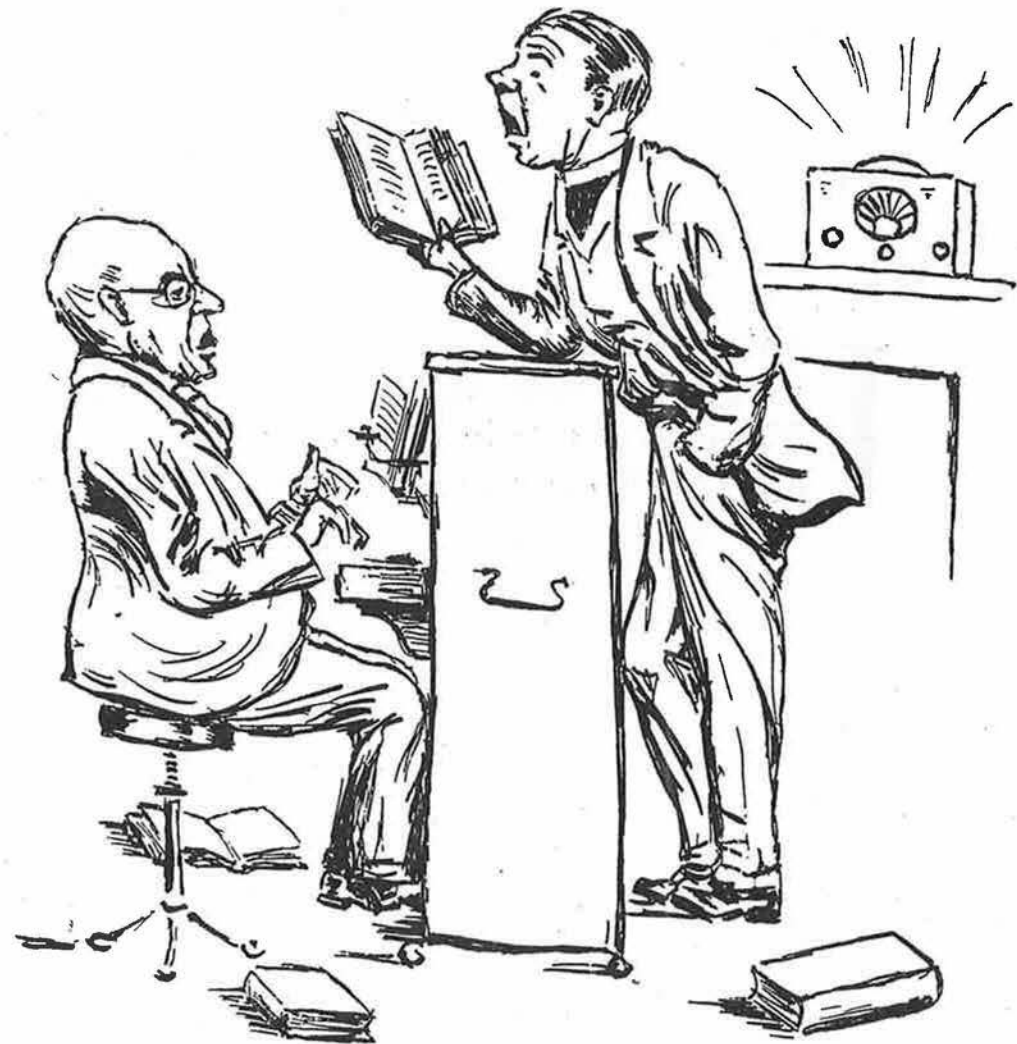
**F** is for Forms  
Which the poor parson fills:  
The Rector of Puddlemarsh  
Takes aspirin pills!



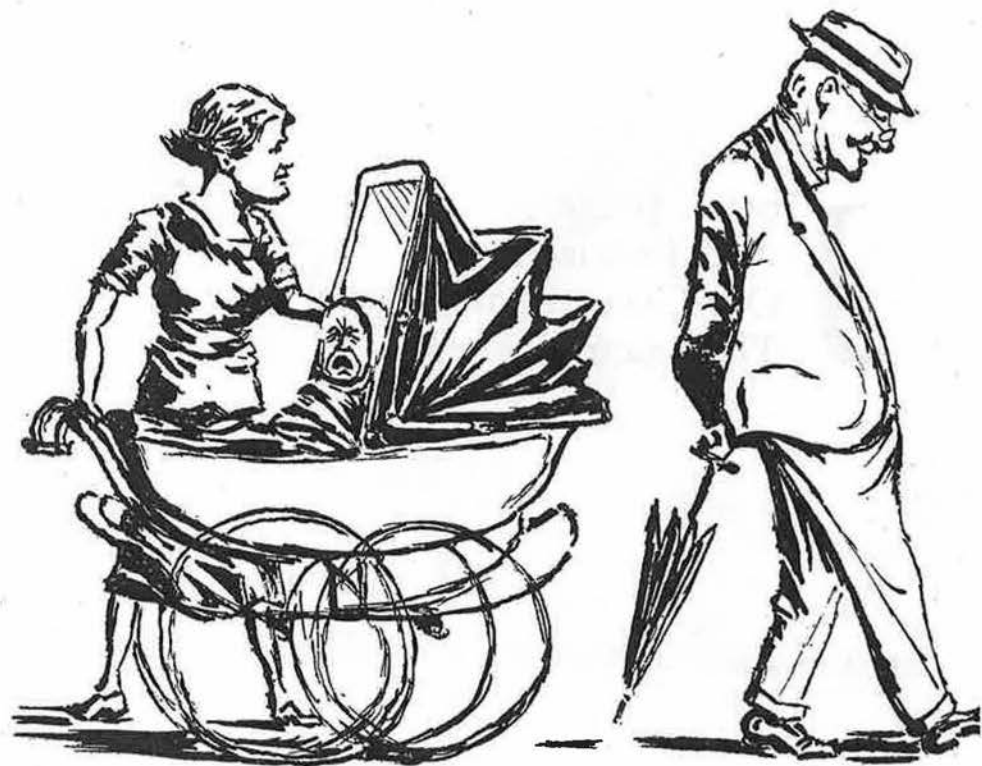
**G** is for Gaiters;  
But may I suggest  
That calves which are thin  
In top boots would look best?



**H** is for Hymn-books.  
Which one shall it be?  
E.H., A. & M.,  
S. of P., B.B.C.?



**I** is the Infant  
Baptized in September,  
Whom you met in the street  
But failed to remember!



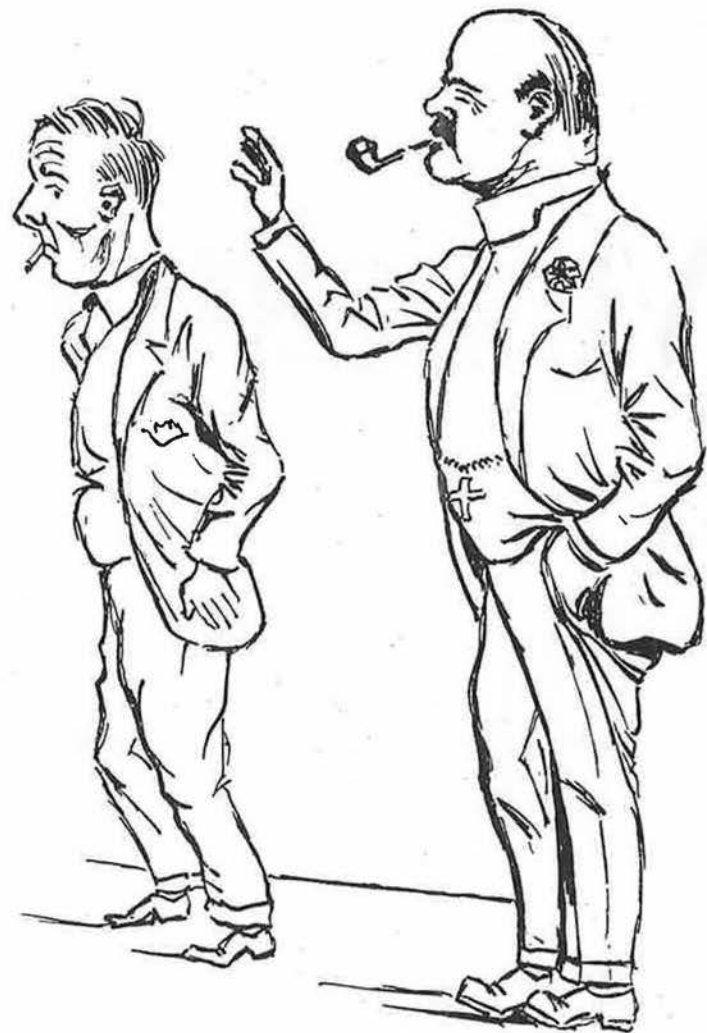
**J**is for Judges,  
And Joshua too;  
Our General will tell you  
Their tactics were true!



**K** is for Kneelers,  
For those whose knees bend;  
But some are afraid  
Their trousers may rend!



**L** is Low Church,  
Athletic and hearty;  
His splendid moustache  
Is the badge of his party!



**M**'s Matrimonial:  
I think you'll agree  
That we should keep weddings  
As nice as can be!

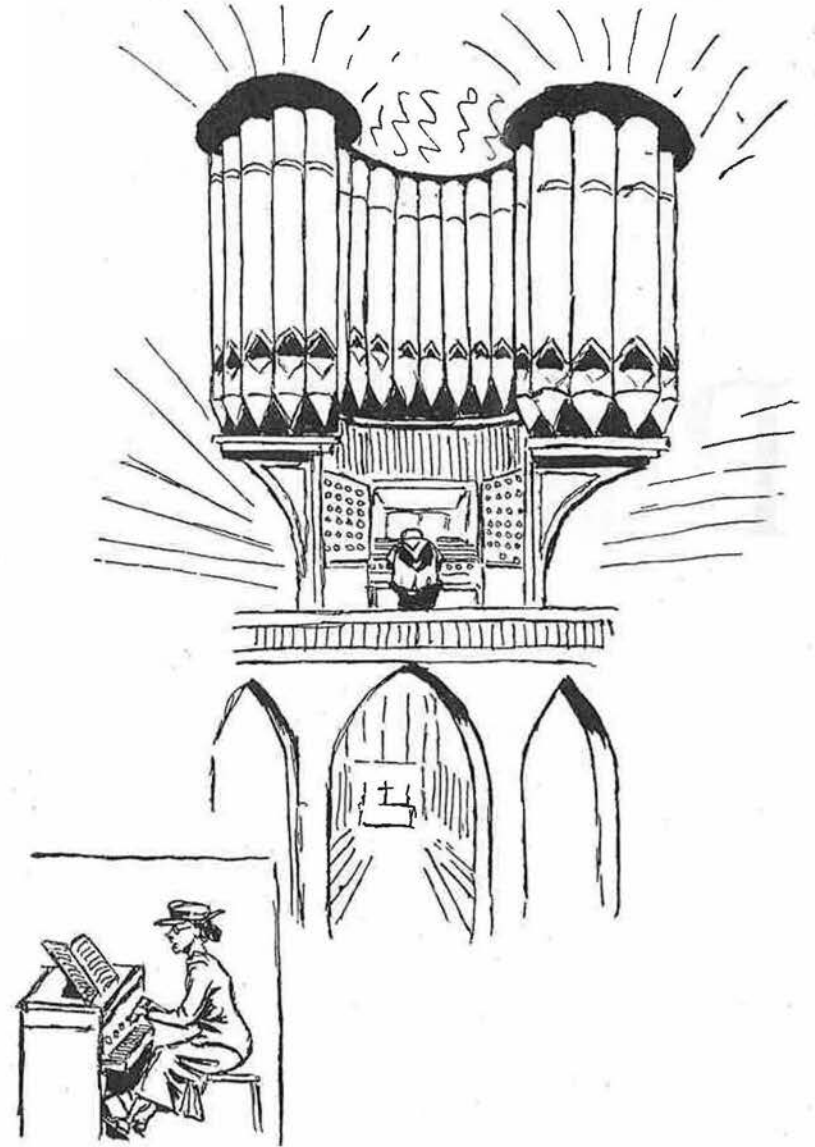




**N**are the Notices  
 Nobody heeds,  
 Whether put on the board,  
 Or when Dear Vicar reads!



O stands for Organ,  
Organist too;  
When they pull all their stops  
What a hullabaloo!



**P**'s of course Parson.  
Let laymen beware;—  
If you enter this carriage  
Take care not to swear!



**Q**'s for the Quire  
With men fat and lean;  
That in our opinion's  
Best heard and not seen!



**R**is our Rector,  
Turned sixty is he;  
Yet down at Tadhampton  
He hit sixty-three!





S is for Spike;  
With buttons and sash,  
Buckle-shoes and biretta  
He makes quite a splash!

**T**are the Titles  
That few seem to know:  
To say 'Rather Reverend'  
Is hardly just so!

Bishops  
are  
Right  
Reverend



Deans and  
Provosts are  
Very Reverend



Archdeacons  
are Venerable  
✓



Canons, whether  
Residentary or  
Honorary are Reverend.  
Canon



And all  
the rest  
are  
plain  
Reverend.



Yes: even  
Rural Deans!

U's Undertaker,  
Deferential but grim;  
Perhaps he is thinking  
They'll soon bury him!

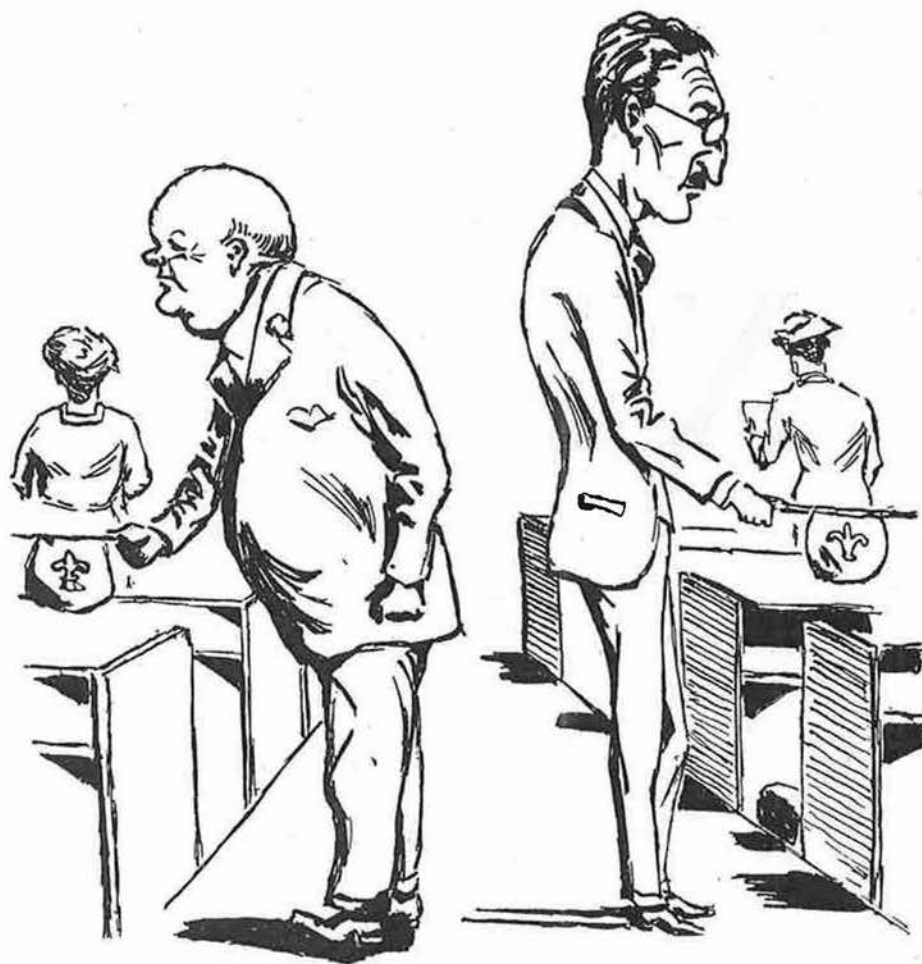




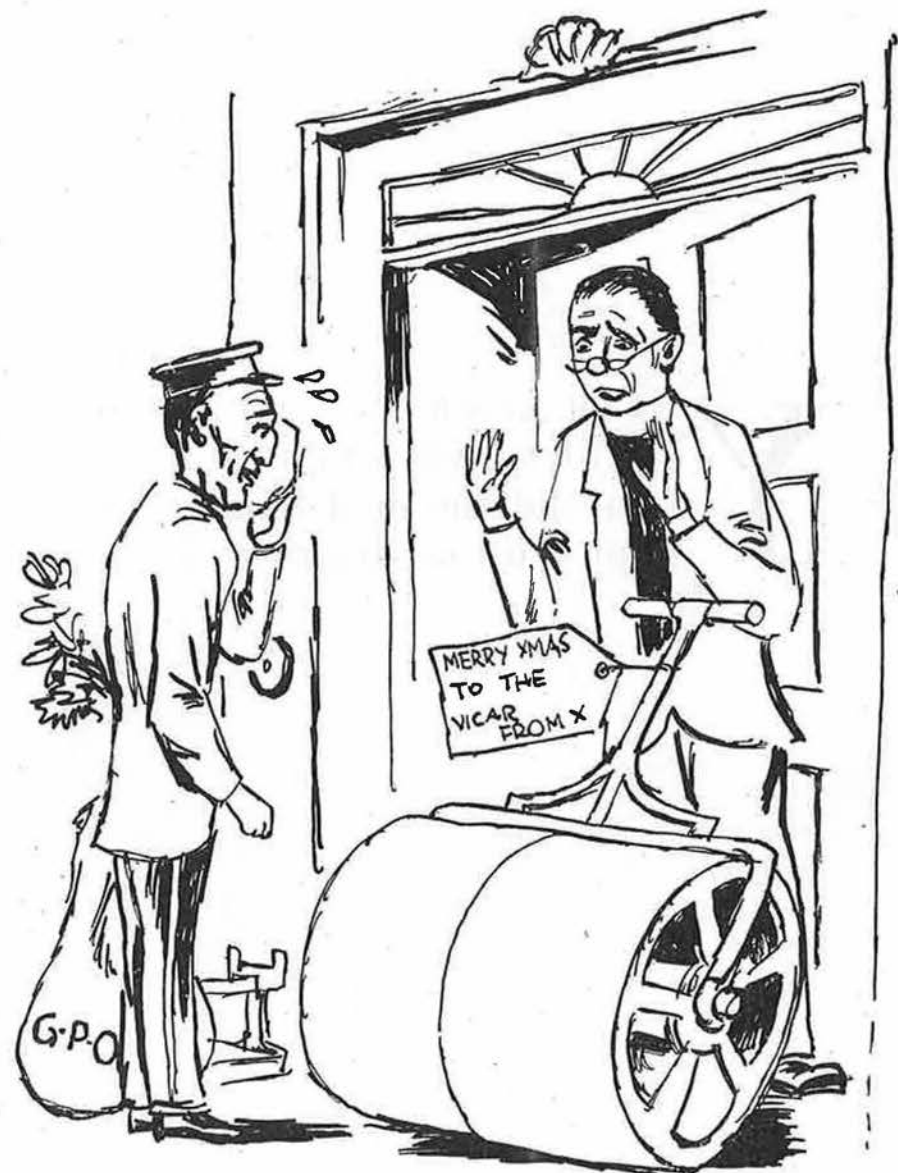
**V** stands for Verger;  
This one's rather grand,  
Our Dean in procession's  
A sheep in his hand.



W's Wardens,  
One fat and one thin:  
What really they're after's  
To get money in!



**X** is anonymous,  
I *have* seen its use  
In 'Xmas' and 'Xtian'—  
A naughty abuse!



**Y** is for Youth  
(With a capital Y);  
To land him in church  
You must use the right fly.

